

A SURVEY OF FISHER FOLK INVOLVED IN ARTISANAL FISHERIES IN SOME SELECTED AREAS OF IKORODU IN LAGOS STATE.

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on men and women involved in artisanal fisheries in some selected area of Ikorodu local government in Lagos state. The random sampling technique was used to select 50 fishermen each at Ibeshe and Baiyeku sites. The results revealed that majority of the fishermen were male, Christian, semi-illiterate, and married. Data were collected on capital sources, labour used, income, gear techniques and type of fish caught. Analysis showed that the highest sources of capital were from personal savings (50%). Majority of labour used were hired labour, 44% at Ibeshe and 50% at Baiyeku. Highest monthly income ranged between N10,000 – N25, 000 at both sites. Planks were mostly used at both sites for fishing boats as well as means of transport (Ibeshe 68%, Baiyeku 72%). Common fishing gear was the gill net. The fishes caught were found to be of various types. Ethmalosa fimbriata constituted the highest fish species caught by weight and number at both sites (50%). However, the problems of capital source were most peculiar coupled with high cost of fishing material and labour scarcity.

Introduction

Fishing has been actively practiced by man many ages with the use of canoes .It is mainly used by the fisherman to catch fish for himself and his family. As a result of technological development, fishing like other aspect of life has also undergone technological change, both in capture and culture fisheries. In both capture and culture fisheries their sole aim is to meet the protein demand of human populace. Fish is a better substitute to meet the barriers of cost per Kilogramme. Small scale and artificial fishermen are overlapping terms that cover a very wide range of fish producer who equally make use of different fishing gears

The fishermen in Nigeria are not as rich as their foreign counterparts because they still operate on a low level. However the fish catch are processed and marketed by hard working women who often suffer from eye diseases and even loss of sight from working in a smoky environment. Most of them live in remote, coastal communities where living standard and the quality of life keep them at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid. Malnutrition, poor health and short life expectancy are common in many fishing villages, especially those that are remote (Ajayi T.O and Talabi S.O (1984). In Nigeria, fish has contributed immensely to the national contribution in terms of supply of highly quality diet protein and micro-nutrient and contribute to inflow of foreign exchange earning through export (Akeredolu 1990). Fish production in Nigeria contributed an annual average of 96.2 percent of the total protein production (FAO. 1986). This report further investigates to the problems and prospect of the fishing industry in a local government area of Nigeria to complement past reports on similar issues.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Ikorodu local government Area of Lagos state which is one of the 20 local governments. The town is divided into four zones namely ikorodu

township, Imota, Igbogbo, and Ijede zones. Ibeshe and Baiyeku are riverside area in Ikorodu local government. Baiyeku and Ibeshe were chosen because of its ecological condition that is conducive for fishing activities. Through random sampling totals of 100 respondents were given questionnaire and were also interviewed. They include fisherman and the women residing in the two villages. The interview probed into demographic parameters, general information on fishing activities and constraints facing fisher folks. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics. The descriptive and inferential statistics such as frequency, mean bar chart and pie chart were used to analyses fact sought by the specific objectives on sex, age, marital status, crafts used.

Results

Sex distribution: The study revealed that Ibeshe 100% of the respondents were male and 0% for female, while Baiyeku is 96% male and 4% female.

Age: The respondents in Ibeshe aged between fifty-one to seventy (51-70) with the highest frequency of 38% while Baiyeku is also similar but the frequency was 20%. The respondents in Ibeshe and Baiyeku of age below 25 years have 10% and 16% respectively.

Religion: The three religion groups were identified were Christianity, Muslim and Traditional. In Ibeshe 52% of the respondents were Christians, while 34% were Muslim and 14% were of the traditional religion. In Baiyeku 42% of respondents were Christian while 36% were Muslim and 22% were traditional. The Christian religion takes the highest frequency in both sites.

Table 1

Distribution by sex of Respondents

Ibeshe			Baiyeku		
Sex	Frequency	Percentage	Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	50	100	Male	48	96.0
Female	0	0.0	Female	2	4.0
Total	50	100	Total	50	100

Table 2

Distribution by age of respondent

Age (years)	Ibeshe frequency	percentage	Baiyeku frequency	percentage
Below 25	5	10.0	8	16.0
25 – 40	11	20.0	12	24.0
41 – 50	15	30.0	10	20.0
51 – 70	19	38.0	20	40.0
Total	50	100	50	100.0

Table 3
Distribution by religion of respondent

Religion	Iheshe frequency	percentage	bayeku frequency	percentage
Christen	26	52.0	21	42.0
Muslim	17	34.0	18	36.0
Tradition	7	14	11	22.0
Total	50	100	50	100.0

Table 4
Distribution by Marital status of Respondent

Marital status	Ibeshe frequency	percentage	Baiyeku.... frequency	percentage
Single	3	6.0	0	12.0
Married	47	94.0	44	88.0
Divorced	0	0.0	0	0.0
Widowed	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0	50	100.0

Table 4 shows the frequency distribution of the fisher folks as regard their marital status, 94% of frequency are married while 6% are single in Ibeshe 88% respondent are married while 12% are single in Baiyeku towns

Table 5
Frequency Distribution of Educational level of respondent

Ibeshe Educational level	frequency	percentage	frequency	percentage
None	25	50.0	27	54.0
Primary school	18	36.0	19	38.0
Secondary	6	12.0	4	8.0
Tertiary	1	2.0	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0	50	100.0

In the table 5 shows 50% respondent is without formal education, 36% went to primary school 12% went to secondary school and 2% has tertiary education in Ibeshe.

Baiyeku has 54% of respondent are illiterates, 38% went to primary school. 8% has gear is normally operator assemble and require minimal or no machine assistance to operate could be responsible for the little or no education of the respondent.

Table 6
Frequency distribution of the source of capital

Source	Ibeshe frequency	percentage	Baiyeku frequency	percentage
Personal saving	25	50	25	50
Govt. subsidy	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cooperative	1	2.0	0	0.0
Bank loan	0	0.0	0	0.0
Family and friend	12	24.0	11	22.0
Inheritance	1	2.0	1	2.0
others (customers)	11	22.0	13	26.0
Total	50	100.0	50	100.0

50% of the respondent used their personal saving as a source of finance, 2% from cooperation, 24% from family and friend, 12% from inheritance and 22% from customers in Ibeshe loan which Baiyeku 50% from personal savings, 22% from family and friends, 2% from inheritance and 26% from customers. The results showed similarity in personal saving for the two towns. The implication of this result in market the investment level of fisher folks are relatively low, with capital after borrowed from these who market the catch (customers)

Table 7
Distribution of Average Income per month of respondent

Average Income/month	ibeshe frequency	percentage	Baiyeku frequency	percentage
Below N 10,000	19	38.0	19	38.0
N10,000 – N 24,000	22	44.0	20	40.0
N 25,000 – N 50,000	8	16.0	11	22.0
Above N 50,000	1	2.0	0	0.0
Total	50	100.0	50	100.0

The table 7 show the analysis of Average income per month distribution of respondents. The highest average income per month of respondents in Ibeshe in 10,000 – 25,000 with frequency percentage in 44% followed by below N 10,000 with frequency of 38 %. In Ibeshe looks similar to Baiyeku with highest average income per month between N 10,000 – N 25,000 with frequency of 40% and followed by 38% (below N 10,000)

Boat is the major craft is used in the fishing operation. It is also used on the water bodies as well as in catching fish.

Table 8
Frequency of craft of respondent

Ibeshe Frequency	%	Baiyeku frequency	percentage	
Craft	0	-	-	
Plank	0	-	-	
Plank dugout	16	68.0	36	72.0
Ghana types of canoes	0	-	-	
Gourds	0	-	-	
Total	50	100.0	50	100

65% of the respondents use plank while 32% is plank dugout in Ibeshe. In Baiyeku, 72% of the respondents use plank while 28% are using plank dugout. The craft used by Ibeshe and Baiyeku are plank and dugout.

Table 9.

Frequency distribution of types of fish caught in the month of Nov/Dec Ibeshe

Type of fish	Ibeshe frequency	%	Baiyeku frequency	percentage
Ethmalosa sp	50	100	50	100
Mugil sp	20	40	10	20
Sardinella sp	40	8	15	30
Caranx carangus	5	10	35	70
Tilapia sp	10	20	23	46
Crayfish	1	2	12	20

The common fish in Ibeshe and Baiyeke are Ethmalosa firmbriata were 200% in high areas followed by Sardirella sp., 80% and 30% respectively an the area. However, the type of fish caught depends on the season of the year because the salinity of the water changes with the different season. The adaptation of individual fish attracts the degree of salinity of water bodies.

Discussion

From the study it shows that the artisanal fisheries is still underutilized and under exploited (Akegbejo, 1997). The study also agreed that artisanal fisheries if better organized can create employment and enhancement of inflow of foreign exchange earning through export (Akeredolu 1990). It also confirms that Nigeria's flood plain could support artisanal fisheries if effectively and efficiently managed (Moses 1986). The study also confirmed that artisanal fisheries is characterized by low capital outlay, low technology application and labour intensive, poor fish distribution network, low revenue generation (F.A.O 1988).

Conclusion and Recommendation

There is no doubt that the artisanal fisheries is still characterized by low technology application, and low revenue generation, low level of education and poor processing technique. For any meaningful development, government should organize effective fishermen organization i.e fishermen cooperatives, buying of inputs in large quantities, and selling of fishing equipment to fisher men at subsidized rate

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